

# Vocabulary Power

## Lesson 5 Using Synonyms

*Void, abyss, chasm*—all these words suggest a hole, nothingness, something missing. Filling a void in one's life often leads to a fulfillment of one's dreams. The words in this list relate to voids.

### Word List

avocation

fortuitous

privation

renaissance

bereft

introspection

provisional

solace

epiphany

melancholy

### EXERCISE A Synonyms

Each **boldfaced** word below is paired with a synonym whose meaning you probably know.

**Brainstorm** other words related to the meaning of the synonym and write your ideas on the line provided. Then, look up the vocabulary word in a dictionary and write its meaning.

1. **privation** : lack \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

2. **solace** : comfort \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

3. **introspection** : self-examination \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

4. **provisional** : temporary \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

5. **bereft** : deprived \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

6. **epiphany** : insight \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

7. **fortuitous** : accidental \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

8. **melancholy** : sadness \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

9. **avocation** : hobby \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

10. **renaissance** : rebirth \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_



## Vocabulary Power *continued*

### EXERCISE B Usage

Circle the word in each set of parentheses that best completes the sentence.

1. The city council created a (bereft, provisional, fortuitous) ordinance to last until election time.
2. Her kind words provided (privation, introspection, solace) after my mother's death.
3. Most people who enjoy surfing do it as a(n) (avocation, epiphany, renaissance), but a few lucky ones can make careers of it.
4. (Solace, Introspection, Epiphany) is a good way to figure out what you want from life, but it can be unwise to spend too much time looking inward.
5. Who would have expected bell-bottom pants to experience a fashion (solace, renaissance, epiphany) after twenty-five years?

### EXERCISE C Multiple-Meaning Words

Some words have several related definitions listed within a single dictionary entry. To explore the multiple meanings of words in the vocabulary list, select the expression that correctly completes each statement below. Use a dictionary, if necessary.

1. Bereft can mean "deprived of or lacking something," but it can also mean \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. feeling very embarrassed
  - b. being of less than average height
  - c. being lost at sea
  - d. suffering the loss of a loved one
2. Epiphany can mean "a sudden insight or realization about an underlying truth," or it can mean \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. the part of a symphony when the resolution becomes clear
  - b. an experience in which a divine being reveals itself plainly
  - c. a kind of glass that refracts light into brilliant colors
  - d. a mystery novel in which the crime is solved very suddenly at the end
3. Fortuitous can mean "happening purely by accident" or \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. causing an unexpected disaster
  - b. funny in an ironic way
  - c. forcing someone to look at a problem in a new way
  - d. lucky or fortunate
4. Melancholy can have the meaning "sadness or gloom," but it can also mean \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. deep thought or reflection
  - b. a disease of the skin
  - c. feeling someone else's pain
  - d. recovering from a severe shock or unpleasant surprise

### EXERCISE D Plot Summary

Imagine that you have the chance to pitch an idea for a new movie that shows how people fill voids in their lives. The story can be funny, inspiring, tragic—whatever you like. On a separate sheet of paper, write a brief summary of the plot of your movie, using at least five of the vocabulary words.



## Vocabulary Power



### Lesson 6 Prefixes Meaning “not”

In English there are several prefixes—word parts attached to the beginning of a word—that add the meaning “not.” These prefixes, which include *dis-*, *non-*, *im-*, *in-*, *ir-*, and *un-*, change the meaning of the base word to its opposite. The vocabulary words in this lesson begin with prefixes meaning “not” and are related to the theme of filling a void.

#### Word List

**disconsolate****intractable****nonconformist****unsavory****disingenuous****irresolute****unpretentious****unscrupulous****impassive****irresponsible**

#### EXERCISE A Context Clues

For each sentence below, use context clues, or clues from the surrounding text, to determine the meaning of the boldfaced vocabulary word. Write your definition of the word. Then, look up the word in a dictionary and write its definition.

1. Preparing to play a character who was **disconsolate**, the actor recalled how he felt that he would never be happy again after his father died.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

2. The mother in this play is completely **unpretentious**, while her daughter puts on airs and acts like a snob.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

3. The actress showed that her character was **disingenuous** by making her eye twitch slightly whenever the character was being dishonest or sneaky.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

4. The play had a cast of many **unscrupulous** characters, so the person with moral principles stood out conspicuously.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

5. Vanessa is very **irresponsible**; she had to throw out four plants that she forgot to water.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

6. Do you find it more difficult to portray an **impassive** character or an emotional one?

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_



## Vocabulary Power *continued*

7. The **nonconformist** in the play refuses to dress like his friends and is not interested in having a job that will make him rich.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

8. Many characters are **irresolute**; they can't decide who they're in love with from one act to the next.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

9. Many actors love to play **unsavory** characters because they get to act out disagreeable qualities.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

10. The young heroine of this play is completely **intractable** and will not do anything her parents ask of her.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

### EXERCISE B Analogies

**Analogies show relationships between things or ideas. For example, in the analogy *finger : hand :: toe : foot*, the relationship in each pair of words is "part to whole." A *finger* is part of a whole *hand*, as a *toe* is part of a whole *foot*. Complete each analogy below by determining the relationship between the first pair of words. Then, choose the letter of the word that creates the same relationship in the second pair.**

1. cheerful : gloomy :: snobbish : \_\_\_\_\_  
a. unpretentious    b. disconsolate    c. impassive    d. irresponsible
2. reliable : untrustworthy :: decisive : \_\_\_\_\_  
a. nonconformist    b. intractable    c. irresolute    d. unsavory
3. emotional : impassive :: moral : \_\_\_\_\_  
a. intractable    b. unscrupulous    c. unpretentious    d. irresolute
4. trustworthy : dishonest :: controlled : \_\_\_\_\_  
a. intractable    b. unsavory    c. disconsolate    d. unpretentious
5. steady : calm :: disagreeable : \_\_\_\_\_  
a. disingenuous    b. irresponsible    c. nonconformist    d. unsavory



# Vocabulary Power



## Lesson 7 Words Formed from the Root *vidēre*

A large family of words in English is derived from the Latin root *vidēre*, which means “to see.” Study the list of vocabulary words to find those that you already know. How do the meanings of these words relate to seeing?

### Word List

evident

video

vision

vista

provident

visage

visitation

visualize

supervise

visible

### EXERCISE A Context Clues

Read each sentence below and use context clues to determine the meaning of the boldfaced vocabulary word. Write your definition of the word. Then, look up the word and write the dictionary definition that fits the sentence.

1. Wendy had heard radio reports about the tornado, but the **video** images on television showed the full extent of the damage.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

2. The glistening dark eyes of the old man's **visage** suggested a lifetime of experience and wisdom.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

3. Derek was honored by a **visitation** from one of the tribal elders, who came to discuss plans for preserving the ancestral forest.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

4. The Rocky Mountains are so tall that they are **visible** for miles.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

5. Many athletes find it helpful before a game to **visualize** themselves giving their best performance.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

6. Serena was amazed at how much her new eyeglasses improved her **vision**.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

## Vocabulary Power *continued*

7. The summer internship at the software company opened the **vista** of a career in computer programming.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

8. That he was home from college was **evident** when I saw the pile of dirty dishes in the kitchen sink.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

9. **Provident** planning ensures that you'll have enough money for retirement in the future.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

10. An adult should **supervise** small children while they use tools such as scissors.

My definition \_\_\_\_\_

Dictionary definition \_\_\_\_\_

### **EXERCISE B** Matching

**Write the vocabulary word that best matches the clue or question.**

1. Eyeglasses help improve this faculty.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. If all the data in a science experiment pointed to a certain conclusion, how would you describe this conclusion?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. When someone comes to see you, it's called this.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. You're in a clothing store and a certain sweater catches your eye. What can you do to imagine how it would look on you?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Through a clearing in the thick woods, you see a vast expanse of farmland.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. A person who prepares for the future is this.

\_\_\_\_\_

7. You see this kind of image each time you turn on your television.

\_\_\_\_\_

8. A person's emotions are often expressed here.

\_\_\_\_\_

Vocabulary Power

## Lesson 8 Using Reference Skills

### Using a Thesaurus: Synonyms

A thesaurus is a reference book that groups words into families of synonyms, or words and phrases with similar meanings. Some thesauruses are set up alphabetically, so all you have to do is look up the word to find the list of synonyms. Others require you to find the word in an index and choose the synonym that has the meaning you want from a short list. Here's a sample index entry that you might find for the word *pandemonium*:

pandemonium  
noise 53.3  
turbulence 671.2

Let's say that *noise* is closest to the meaning you want. Next, you would find the category numbered 53.3 in the main section of the thesaurus. There you would find a long list of synonyms, including *blast*, *racket*, *din*, *clamor*, *uproar*, *rattle*, *roar*, *thunder*, *crash*, *brouhaha*, *hubbub*, *brawl*, and *commotion*. Take your pick!

### EXERCISE

Choose the word from the list that could replace the boldfaced word in each sentence. Use a thesaurus as a resource.

**astonished**

**timorous**

**vengeful**

**irreverent**

**unorthodox**

**watchful**

1. The girl was **amazed** and stared in wonder as the ugly toad was transformed into a handsome prince.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. "You coward!" Jim scolded. "Are you really too **craven** to call Stephanie and ask her to a movie?"

\_\_\_\_\_

3. I can't believe Linda would be so **vindictive** as to hurt her tormentor.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. The **insolent** student soon found out that Miss Johnston would allow no disrespectful behavior in her classroom.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. The adult geese were always **vigilant** while their goslings were eating.

\_\_\_\_\_



# Vocabulary Power



## Review: Unit 2

### EXERCISE A

Circle the letter of the word that best completes each sentence.

- When a person is suffering, he or she needs \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. vista      b. visage      c. solace      d. privation
- You may not earn a living from writing, but you can enjoy writing as a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. epiphany      b. avocation      c. visitation      d. renaissance
- Ken is too \_\_\_\_\_ to make a decision about the topic of his term paper.  
a. unscrupulous      b. disingenuous      c. fortuitous      d. irresolute
- Asking for advice can be helpful, but \_\_\_\_\_ often is the best way to solve a personal problem.  
a. introspection      b. epiphany      c. renaissance      d. solace
- Alyssa is so \_\_\_\_\_ that her friends never know how she is feeling.  
a. unsavory      b. impassive      c. disconsolate      d. visible
- My grandmother's \_\_\_\_\_ is wrinkled, but she is a beautiful woman.  
a. vista      b. epiphany      c. vision      d. visage
- Fiona is so \_\_\_\_\_ that she would never flaunt her family's wealth.  
a. unpretentious      b. unscrupulous      c. intractable      d. disconsolate
- The \_\_\_\_\_ boy would not allow anyone to help him tie his shoes.  
a. bereft      b. disingenuous      c. intractable      d. unpretentious
- It was \_\_\_\_\_ of Nancy to leave the house without checking to see that the stove was turned off.  
a. impassive      b. irresponsible      c. evident      d. melancholy
- A person with allergies needs to be \_\_\_\_\_ enough to bring her medication.  
a. intractable      b. evident      c. bereft      d. provident

### EXERCISE B

Circle the word that is the best synonym for the boldfaced word.

- melancholy:**      optimism      gloom      anger
- provisional:**      temporary      weak      fair
- visualize:**      describe      imagine      feel
- disingenuous:**      honest      ignorant      sneaky
- disconsolate:**      sad      confused      vengeful